

Oct/Nov 2010

# LIBERTY LINK

*A Newsletter for Liberty Lake Citizens*

**PUBLISHED BY THE CITY OF LIBERTY LAKE**

## MAYORS MESSAGE

Fall is here and our major construction projects for this year are almost complete, including Rocky Hill Park and the solar panel project at the public safety building. Both of these projects were grant funded. We expect to have a grand opening for Rocky Hill Park in October. Other fall festivities include a Halloween Party at the Liberty Lake Municipal Library on Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. Please come join us for these events!

Liberty Lake City Council Members, staff, and I have been hard at work focusing on the City's long-term financial well-being. We are faced with extraordinary challenges with a looming \$700,000 shortfall anticipated in 2011. Liberty Lake has been challenged with a sluggish economy and structural budget imbalances due to a growing gap between revenues and cost of providing public services. The City relies heavily on two major funding sources, property tax and sales tax. Property tax is heavily restricted and can only increase 1% a year. Sales tax is highly unstable. This year we have experienced a 22% decline in retail sales tax revenue compared to 2008. Most cities similar in size to Liberty Lake have a more diversified revenue base, which helps ensure fiscal sustainability.

*Continued on pg 4*

## WHERE DO YOUR TAX DOLLARS GO?

**By Jessica Platt**

Administrative Services Manager

Our elected officials and city staff are often asked how the City receives operating money and where the money is spent. The following is a brief explanation of the types of revenue that come into the City and how general operating funds are spent.

### Property Tax:

Residents of Liberty Lake pay property taxes each year with the City receiving 13% of the total property tax bill. This means that for every dollar paid in property tax, the City of Liberty Lake receives 13 cents.....

*Continued on pg 2*

### LIBERTY LAKE HAS THE SECOND LOWEST PROPERTY TAX IN SPOKANE COUNTY

City	Property Tax Rate w/ Library
Rockford	\$ 3.09
Cheney	\$ 2.99
Spokane	\$ 2.95
Medical Lake	\$ 2.93
Fairfield	\$ 2.87
Spangle	\$ 2.71
Latah	\$ 2.46
Airway Heights	\$ 2.20
Millwood	\$ 2.09
Waverly	\$ 2.09
Spokane Valley	\$ 1.95
<b>Liberty Lake</b>	<b>\$ 1.55</b>
Deer Park	\$ 1.24

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### FALL CLEAN GREEN!

Coming up in  
early November

Visit our website  
for more information

City of Liberty Lake  
22710 E. Country Vista Dr.  
Liberty Lake, WA 99019  
Phone: (509) 755-6700  
Fax: (509) 755-6713



## Where Do Your Tax Dollars Go?

Continued from pg 1  
.....to help support public safety, streets, parks, recreation, library, criminal justice, and planning and economic development.

As you can see from the illustration on the right, Central Valley School District and Fire District 1 receive the highest percentage of property tax dollars (60% combined).



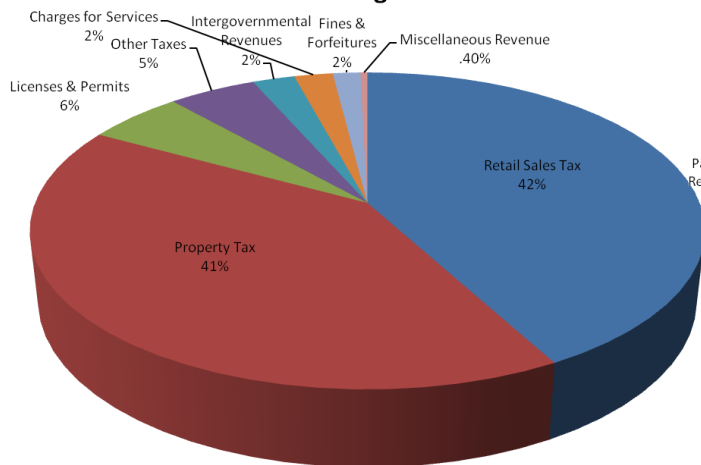
The City of Liberty Lake has the second lowest property tax rate in Spokane County, which includes the library. Liberty Lake has its own library system which will save Liberty Lake taxpayers approximately \$544,588 in 2011 based on current estimates. If Liberty Lake was annexed into the County Library District, taxpayers would be paying an additional 50¢ per \$1,000 assessed value.

## Retail Sales Tax:

Retail sales and use tax revenue, in contrast to property tax, is a highly unstable revenue source. Liberty Lake has experienced a sharp decline in retail sales tax revenue since 2008 due to the economic recession. Comparing mid-year 2010 with mid-year 2008, retail sales tax revenue has declined 22%. The City anticipates sales tax will grow at a slow pace over the next five years, by an average of 2-3%.

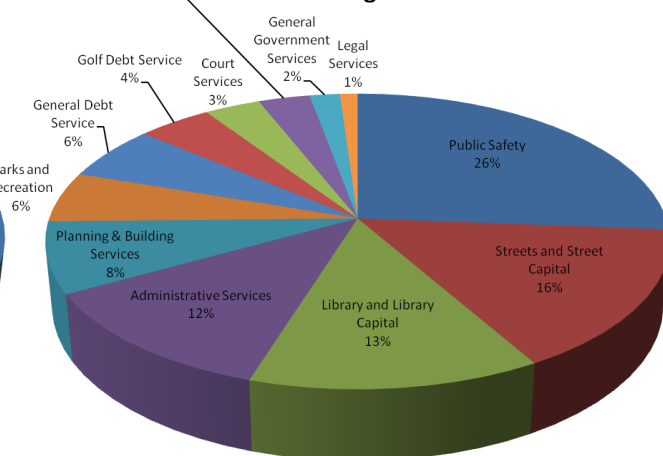
The pie chart below on the left depicts the revenue sources and the percentage of General Fund that each represents. As you can see from the chart, Liberty Lake relies heavily on two revenue sources to fund city services, property tax and retail sales tax. The pie chart below on the right shows the allocation by service within the General Fund. General Fund expenses increase annually on average approximately 5% due to inflation.

**General Fund Revenue Sources  
2010 Budget Year**



Note: The Rocky Hill Grant Project in the amount of \$502,818, which is a onetime funding source, is excluded from Intergovernmental Revenues

**General Fund Expenditures  
2010 Budget Year**



Note: The Rocky Hill Grant Project in the amount of \$502,818, which is a onetime funding source, is excluded under Parks and Recreation



## STORY TIMES



**Tuesdays**  
**10:30am**  
Toddler/Preschool  
Story Time  
18+ months



**Thursdays**  
**7:00pm**  
Pajama Story Time  
All Ages

**Fridays**  
**10:15am**  
Baby Laptime  
Ages 9 months—24 months

**11:00am**  
Toddler/Preschool Stories & Songs  
18 months and up

**1:00pm**  
Stories and Crafts  
3 years and up

## LIBRARY UPDATES

### By Tracy Rebstock

Librarian

### HALLOWEEN PARTY:

The Halloween Party will be on Friday, October 29<sup>th</sup>. The time will be announced soon. Please check the website for details. This event is for all ages. Please come dressed in your costume and enjoy games, activities, and crafts. We will also have a fun house again this year. This program is made possible by the Friends of the Liberty Lake Library.

### NATIONAL GAMING DAY:

On Saturday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, we will celebrate National Gaming Day. Come and play DDR from 10am-12pm or drop in the Library anytime that day to play board games. Bring your own games to play or play some of the Library's.

### HARRY POTTER MOVIE RELEASE PARTY:

On Friday, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup> at 4pm, the first part of the FINAL Harry Potter movie will be released. Come and celebrate the release of this movie at the library. We will have trivia, games, activities, and crafts all having to do with the movie. There will be an opportunity to win a set of Harry Potter books and a movie pass. Come dressed as your favorite character or dress in your favorite house at Hogwarts! This program is made possible by the Friends of the Liberty Lake Library.

The library is full of several other resources. Feel free to use us when looking for books for projects or reports. Feel free to use the knowledge of our staff to help you find things quickly. We know your time is valuable.

## CHESS:

Chess has returned to the Library. Chess will be played and taught limited Saturdays in October and November from 10am-12pm. For a list of the dates please check the Programs and Activities Page on the library's website.

## BACK TO SCHOOL:

By now you have settled into a routine at home. School has started. Are you aware of the resources that the library offers for your students?

- We have the free online tutoring service from Tutor.com available through our website. It is simple, just log on through the library's website using your library card between 3pm and 10pm daily for help in English, Science, Social Studies, and Math. There is live help using a chat service. Help is available for K-12 as well as college students and adults who have returned to school.

- We offer World Book Online. This is more than an encyclopedia. There are three levels—one for adults, one for students and one for kids. Not only are there articles available, but there are also videos and links to more information.

- We offer ProQuest. This online database has magazine, journal, and newspaper articles in full text format. If your students need current articles from the newspaper or a magazine, try this awesome resource. Just log in from the library's website using your library card number. If you need assistance, just call and ask for Tracy.

- We offer a link to the Quiz List Interactive if your child needs to find a book to read to fulfill reading counts. This link is available from our online catalog.



## Come see us at the library!

23123 E. Mission Ave  
Liberty Lake, WA 99019  
Phone: (509) 232-2510  
Fax: (509) 232-2512



## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS WITH THE MAYOR

**This month the Q & A section focuses on the recent Liberty Lake Service Priority Level Survey, which was on the City's website during the month of August.**

### MAYOR VAN ORMAN



To read Questions & Answers visit our Q & A Web Page:  
[www.libertylakewa.gov/questions](http://www.libertylakewa.gov/questions)

#### *Mayors Message* *Continued from pg 1*

Over the past three years, City staff and I have worked diligently to control spending on supplies and services. Through these efforts, we have made \$1.3 million in reductions.

One of my top priorities as Mayor is to focus on ensuring the fiscal sustainability of Liberty Lake for future generations. This is a time where we must come together, as a community, to reconfirm our priorities and define the City we want to be.

*Mayor Wendy Van Orman*

Thank you for taking the survey on the city's website. Out of 2,500 households, we received 151 responses or 5%. Survey results unveiled three things...

- 1) Residents are satisfied with the current level of service.
- 2) Public Safety is the #1 priority.
- 3) During this economy, services need to be reduced with a minimal tax increase if needed.

Full results can be found on the city's website. I would like to take this opportunity to clarify some of the comments received:

**Citizen Comment:** The first words out of their mouth is raise taxes. We are in a difficult economy and everyone is struggling. We are all cutting budgets. The City must cut budgets to live within the funding available.

**Mayor's Response:** Since 2001, when revenue was not needed, we gave it back to the residents. The City of Liberty Lake currently has the second lowest property tax in Spokane County. Your current tax also includes the municipal library services, if you live in the county that is an additional .50 per 1,000 of assessed value for the Library District. The City of Liberty Lake has not taken a 1% property tax in my recollection....ever; in some years we reduced it. Currently, sales tax has declined 22% since mid-year 2008. We will be looking to reduce levels of services where it makes the most sense; even then, an alternate form of less volatile revenue will be needed to keep the city sustainable.

**Comment:** I think that with the general downturn of the economy in recent years, City government could have anticipated a reduction in revenue and adjusted spending accordingly.

**Response:** Since the economic downturn occurred in late 2007, we have cut \$1.32 million from the budget. We installed moisture meters to curtail water consumption, and solar panels at the police station, paid for by grant money, to help to save on the utility bills. Our employees wear many hats; each have saved the taxpayers an enormous amount of money in providing streamline services. A very good example is that our Planning and Building Department does the same amount of permitting with 4 employees as our neighboring jurisdiction with 24 employees.

**Comment:** I would hate to see the City eliminate services that contribute to what makes Liberty Lake special; this may seem like a good short term solution, but in the long run may cost the City far more than just a dollar amount.

**Response:** When we speak of economic development, one of the reasons why businesses will locate to a city is for their quality of life. When asked why Boeing headquarters located to Chicago instead of Dallas, they referenced that Chicago had invested heavily in their parks system that enriched the quality of life.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to give your feedback. Our Questions & Answers section of the newsletter will return in December.



## SENIOR LUNCH

By Troy Mullenix

Recreation Coordinator

Senior Lunch is offered every Monday & Wednesday from 11:00am to 1:00pm by Spokane Valley Meals on Wheels. The recommended donation for meals is \$3.50.

The Senior Lunch Program allows seniors who are not homebound to come together and enjoy a hot nutritious meal, socialize with others, and participate in social, recreational and educational activities. The Senior Lunch Program serves anyone 60 years of age or older. Lunch starts at 11:00am, with lunch served around 11:30.



### Location:

Liberty Lake City Hall  
22710 E. Country Vista Dr  
Liberty Lake, WA 99019

### More information:

Spokane Valley Meals on Wheels  
(509) 924-6976

## 2010 TREE LIGHTING CEREMONY

Friday, December 3rd  
5:00pm to 8:00pm

- Carriage Rides
- Vendor Booths
- Crafts
- Photo Contest
- Santa Pictures
- Storytime
- Games
- Chestnut Roasting

For more information, visit our website or watch for the December Newsletter



## DANCE CLASSES

Mondays starting Oct 25<sup>th</sup>  
Ballroom, Romance & Swing!  
These exciting dance classes are jointly offered through Spokane Valley and the City of Liberty Lake Parks and Recreation Departments. Six nights of classes only \$55/person or \$95/couple. SIGN UP ONLINE!



## DANCE WORKSHOPS

Ballroom Dec 6<sup>th</sup>—6:00pm to 8:00pm  
Nightclub Dec 13<sup>th</sup>—6:00pm to 8:00pm  
Preparing for a Christmas or New Year's Ball? Or are you just looking for dances to use next time you are at a small party or night club? Each workshop is \$25/person or \$40/couple. SIGN UP ONLINE!



## FINANCIAL SEMINAR

Thursday October 21<sup>st</sup>—6:00pm  
"Rethink, Rebuild, Retire!"  
Has the recent economic downturn threatened your dreams for the future? Join us for this seminar and dinner, all free of charge thanks to STCU and the City of Liberty Lake. FREE! Please RSVP Online.



## LL LEARNING CENTER

Classes offered Monday thru Friday.  
The Liberty Lake Learning Center offers Reading, Writing, and Math Clubs, Tutoring, and Music Lessons. Classes are held at the Little House next to City Hall. Rates start at just \$15/hr for Clubs, \$30/hr for Tutoring. SIGN UP AT CITY HALL!



## SCRAPBOOKING CROP

Friday October 15<sup>th</sup>—6:00pm  
What a great way to spend time away from home catching up on scrapbook projects, make new friends who share your interest in scrapbooking, and learn new techniques. Bring a snack, socialize, and have fun! FREE! Please RSVP Online.



## ZUMBA FITNESS

Tues/Thurs Starting Oct 5<sup>th</sup>—7 to 8pm  
Zumba fuses hypnotic Latin rhythms and easy-to-follow moves to create a one-of-a-kind fitness program that will blow you away. Join us at the HUB Sports Center for our October classes. \$40/person includes 8 classes. SIGN UP ONLINE!



# GET INVOLVED WITH THE CITY OF LIBERTY LAKE

## Regular City Meetings:

City Council  
1st & 3rd Tuesday of every month  
City Hall Council Chambers  
22710 E. Country Vista Dr  
7:00pm—10:00pm

City Planning Commission  
2nd Wednesday of every month  
City Hall Council Chambers  
22710 E. Country Vista Dr  
4:00pm—6:00pm

## Community Organizations/Meetings:

Central Valley School Dist—Board Meeting  
2nd & 4th Monday of every month  
CVSD Main Office  
19307 E. Cataldo Ave  
6:30pm—7:30pm

Friends of Pavillion Park—Board Meeting  
1st Thursday of every month  
Greenstone Building, 2nd floor  
1401 N. Meadowwood Lane, Suite 200  
7:00pm—8:00pm

Kiwanis Club of Liberty Lake  
Every Wednesday  
City Hall Council Chambers  
22710 E. Country Vista Dr  
6:45am—8:00am

Lions Club of Liberty Lake  
2nd & 4th Wednesday of every month  
Barlow's Family Restaurant  
1400 N. Meadowwood Lane  
12:00pm—1:00pm

Liberty Lake Centennial Rotary Club  
Every Thursday  
Denny Ashlock Building  
22510 E. Mission Ave  
12:00pm—1:00pm

Liberty Lake Municipal Library Board of Trustees  
1st Thursday of every month  
Liberty Lake Municipal Library  
23123 E. Mission Ave  
6:30pm—7:30pm

S.C.O.P.E.  
1st Wednesday of every month  
City Hall Council Chambers  
22710 E. Country Vista Dr  
6:30pm—8:00pm

Youth Commission  
1st & 3rd Monday of every month  
City Hall Council Chambers  
22710 E. Country Vista Dr  
7:30pm—8:30pm

ECRWSS  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
Liberty Lake, WA

POSTAL PATRON OR  
CURRENT RESIDENT



# LIBERTY LINK

PUBLISHED BY THE CITY OF LIBERTY LAKE

The Liberty Link is published bi-monthly by the City of Liberty Lake to inform our citizens about upcoming events, recreation programs, issues, and policies of our city government.

**Editors:** Amanda Tainio,  
Ann Swenson, JoAnn Jenkins

**Designer:** Troy Mullenix  
Recreation Coordinator

## CONTACT THE CITY

<b>City Hall:</b>	755-6700	<b>Police Department:</b>	755-1140
22710 E. Country Vista Drive		23127 E. Mission Ave.	
Hours: Mon—Fri (8:00am—5:00pm)		Emergency	911
Mayor Wendy Van Orman	755-6701	On-Duty Officer Cell	218-4899
Community Development	755-6708	Chief Brian Asmus	755-1141
Recreation Services	755-6726	S.C.O.P.E.	755-1143

<b>Trailhead Golf Course:</b>	928-3484	<b>Liberty Lake Library:</b>	232-2510
1102 N. Liberty Lake Road		23123 E. Mission Ave	

### Liberty Lake City Council:

Mayor Wendy Van Orman	<a href="mailto:wvanorman@libertylakewa.gov">wvanorman@libertylakewa.gov</a>
Mayor Pro Tem David Crump	<a href="mailto:dcrump@libertylakewa.gov">dcrump@libertylakewa.gov</a>
Susan Schuler	<a href="mailto:sschuler@libertylakewa.gov">sschuler@libertylakewa.gov</a>
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Cris Kaminskas	<a href="mailto:ckaminskas@libertylakewa.gov">ckaminskas@libertylakewa.gov</a>